

**Center for Modern Greek Studies
Greek American Oral History Project
Transcription**

Tape:

**Subject: Artemis Lewnes
Interviewer: Mary Nicholson Goldworth
Date of Interview: 6/14/2001**

**Transcriber: Amanda Cookson
Date of Transcription: 6/17/2010**

**I: Interviewer
A: Artemis**

Counter: 000

I: //June 13-, 14, 2001 and umm it will be the Oral History of umm Artemis A-R-T-E-M-I-S umm ohh, her initial.

A: I don't have an initial//

I: //No, no, Lewnes, L-E-W-N-E-S//

A: //"S"

I: And I am the interviewer, Mary Nicholson Goldworth and the name of this project is Greek American Oral History umm Program at San Francisco uhh the Modern Greek Studies Center, San Francisco State University. Umm and our location for recording is at my home at 4000 Way, Laguna Way and, and uhh we shall now begin. What is the uhh lead you to consider yourself of Greek heritage.

A: Well I was born there so obviously I came here when I was 12. Umm, it took me a long time, even to this day to think of myself as anything but Greek.

I: Has that changed for you now?

A: Yes and I think more so when I realized that my daughter was getting married here and was going to have children here.

I: Uh huh.

A: And when I see my grandchildren I see them as completely American and umm fortunately or unfortunately you lose, you lose a little of your Greek heritage when, especially when your children marry out of uhh, uhh, marry a American-born and Anglo-Saxon which is very nice, I don't regret anything//

I: //Mmhmm//

A: //but umm, it's, it's, {023} is very Greek, very Greek and the more she feels//

I: //that's your, your daughter//

A: //she married a, a non-Greek, yes, my daughter Anne. Uhh at times I find her speaking Greek to me for no reason at all so, we still have that//

I: //that's still there huh?

A: Yes, it's still there.

I: Mmhmm, ok uhh let's go into the beginning of your story that we want to know more about//

A: //yeah.

I: And it has to do with your life in Greece//

A: //Mmhmm.

I: And umm you have particular umm, uhh history because of the fact that you were in uhh Greece doing the, the wars//

A: //the war//

I: //of 1948. I'm not sure what year you were involved there.

A: I was//

I: //I know years 1941-45//

A: //40-4-, when we came over in 1946 and uhh the war was really in 1940 it started we had to leave Serres (Σέρρες) where I was born and I was six. And we left Serres and we went to Halkitha which was a peninsula area in, in Greece thinking that we would escape. Several families from Serres, about 10, 10, 12 families, all of us, packed things and we just went there. But uhh the German occupation actually started there. We saw them when they started coming into Halkitha, 1940 that was. The Germans invaded Greece.

I: Would you spell, for the record, spell the name Serres and//

A: S-E-R-R-E-S which is in Macedonia.

I: Uh huh.

A: It's about an hour and a half from Salonica, Thessaloniki. And Halkitha is H-A-L-K-I-T-H-A, I would say. Actually it's halkis but in Greek when you, when you say, "I'm going to Halkitha" you say, "Halkitha."

I: Ok. And umm//

A: //I have allergies in my nose, I'm sorry, I'm.

I: Would you, do you need a tissue.

A: No, I have tissues, I have.

I: Ok. Umm, what would you recall, what do you recall of the experience during the, your experience during the war years? And you said you saw the Germans//

A: //yes//

I: //coming into//

A: //Halkitha//

I: //Mmhmm, what, what did you see and what, what was happening then?

A: Hmm. You want me to describe what the Germans were like, or what we felt//

I: //yeah, what you saw.

A: They, they, they came, we thought they were just a beautiful army of young 20, 21-year-olds and all blonde and beautiful. I remember I was very little//

I: //were they marching, were they marching in a row//

A: //and they had little flowers, yes, they marched in//

I: //Oh, yeah//

A: //they marched in with flower wreaths on their heads, I remember that. The ones that we saw, yeah, yeah, there were all sorts of other invasions but I remember that, I said, “Τι ωρεία παιδιά.” Six, I was six, just blonde and so clean cut and so beautiful, to look at them you would never think that anything evil is there or and of course at 20 years old I always say, you know, they make fun of me, you know, Jim or Greg or somebody. And I say, “You teach those kids to be evil, I don’t think they’re born evil,” right? Because they look so beautiful to me//

I: //Uh huh//

A: //the Germans. That’s what I remember the most.

I: Uh huh. And did//

A: //of course they’re bombing, they were bombing us before they invaded//

I: //Mmhmm.

A: Just a few maybe months, weeks and I remember also seat//

I: //where were they bombing, where were you when they were bombing?

A: Oh we were, we were in the Halkitha area and then we moved to a smaller village outside of Halkitha to avoid bombing so any <laughing>and this bombing there. For some reason because it was a seaport, I think it was seaport uhh they were bombing us, they were bombing those areas.

I: Did you see or//

A: //And nobody bombed Salonica// <laughing>

I: //Now were you//

A: //so we said we left!

I: //you left. What was the bombing like? Were you there//

A: //yes//

I: at a time when//

A: //yes, yes, yes//

I: //did you {072}//

A: //they were bombing here, they bombed maybe ships, maybe movement of ships, there might have been English ships in the area, there was, there was, I don't know what they were bombing. Why would they be bombing that area that's, well there was a, there was a bridge, a famous bridge they used to open in Halkitha, which was you know, for Greek small town. I thought that was an amazing thing to see the bridge open so ships would go through//

I: //Mmhmm.

A: We hadn't seen anything like this, so it could have been, there was shipping, there were, I don't know what they were bombing, I was too little to discuss, you know, I'm sure my family was saying things at dinnertime or something, my uncle, my father, my grandfather, we, we're all together. And this is all 1940. We stayed there about a year and then umm//

I: //so once the bombing was, what you saw and hear, you heard//

A: //yeah, well after they came in, after they invaded, after they invaded, it was short, it was not long because the Germans just walked into the Greece. There was no, there no uhh defense so some of the islands, I think Crete had uhh more fighting because the English were there. I don't know if you ever heard of the Battle of Crete it, it took a long time, the English were there, they had shipping there. Armaments, they had, and there's a

bay there, Suda Bay is it {088}, what is it called, which is still a bay that uhh Americans use and but for the rest of Greece I think they just walked in.

I: So//

A: //And Salonica also.

I: Did you see where the soldiers uhh lived after they marched//

A: //Yes they occupied where Christopher was, the theatre, he was the, the manager of the uhh, of the theatre in Salonica. It took over the whole theatre, they left him, you know, a small little office but they occupied the whole theatre.

I: //<interrupting> {095}

A: //Yes. But//

I: //<interrupting> But in Halkitha// {095}

A: // Halkitha what happened, what happened was most of the public buildings they took, that's where they, they made living quarters and uhh, if I remember that's where the German were and they took over public buildings//

I: //did you ever speak to any of them?

A: The Germans?

I: Yes.

A: Not in Halkitha I was too little but during the war, yes, we did.

I: Ok so when was that, you left Halkitha then.

A: We left Halkitha, we, we, my father chartered a little boat and we put all our belongings on it and we, we hit the biggest storm <laughing> and we started throwing things, you know, pieces of furniture that we had brought, small little com-, comodina, that we say, nightstand and things, tables. My mother and father were throwing them off to, to lighten the, the umm, the weight. And my mother had a, my brother and me covered up with a blanket, I remember that so vividly because the waves were coming in and my mother was going, "{108}" my father because he's the patron saint! <laughing>

I: Saint Nicholas.

A: Saint Nicholas. And finally the captain said, "You know, we gonna have to find somewhere to, to take refuge at for the evening."

I: Where were you headed?

A: We were heading from Halkitha to umm Salonica. Yeah and we hit this terrible storm, oh! And finally we did find somewhere and I remember Trikeri, it's a small, I don't know where it is, somewhere. We spent the night, we spent the night//

I: //can you spell that, spell that, spell that name//

A: //Trikeri, T-R-I-K-E-R-I. And we spent the night there and the next morning everything was so quiet and//

I: //after the storm//

A: //yes, after the storm we started again and we got to and in the middle of that trip as we're heading towards Salonica about an hour away or two we see uhh a foreign ship, the said it was Italian, cut into two, go like this, it was torpedoed by somebody, we don't know who or hit umm, umm, a mine. And it was cut up in two and then we would see people far away, not right next to our little boat, some of them being saved, some not, pieces of, you know, it was an amazing thing!

I: Mmhmm.

A: I mean sometimes when I speak of these things I say, "God you could write a movie to see if the ship just break in two." <laughing> And uhh but we finally got to Salonica and umm that's where we stayed until 1946. We never went back home to Serres.

I: Which was//

A: //which was our home.

I: Your original?

A: Yes, my father's home and you know, we had businesses and things but we never went back.

I: Mmhmm. And what about the time that you spent during the war in Thessa-, in Thessaloniki//

A: //yes.

I: You said you had some re-, recollection of that, you speaking to the Germans and you were getting a little older then//

A: //Oh yes, we did, we did, people//

I: //what do you remember?//

A: //it's, it's an amazing thing to me as a child uhh, I have, I have exchanged stories with other people in Greece after the war like uhh Jim's aunt in Tripoli who, the Germans were very mean to them, they came in, they took over their home, they were {136}. In Salonica it didn't happen that way to me, personally. Mmm, Chistopher even brought the man, like a general, who was Austrian//

I: //Chistopher was//

A: //my uncle//

I: //uncle//

A: //my mother's, yes. He spoke fluent German and he, since they were at the teahatre anyway, you know, he befriend people, they're there, and he brought them over a few times for, for dinner. And he was very nice, he was telling us that he was Austrian, he didn't really like the war so we, we felt better about that. He said, "One of these days," I remember, he said, "this will all be over and we shall be friends again." So//

I: //he was an officer, you said?

A: Oh yes, he was a general//

I: //general?

A: General. I remember him now, I remember what we ate//

I: //what did you eat?//

A: //my grandmother made chicken {148} <laughing> She bought like two chickens because we had a, a chicken coop on the terrace to be able to eat something. So she bought chickens and she made uhh {150} and he liked it very much. And there was also a picture on the wall of a, of a beautiful baby. You know how you put two or three pictures? So my grandmother had that one in a beautiful frame and he went to it and he said, "That's a German baby." And it was a German picture! Of course it was this beautiful, arrogant-looking baby. So I remember those little touches and I was still six and a half//

I: //Mmhmm.

A: But you remember those things so//

I: //Mmhmm//

A: But the {157} I remember.

I: He had never had it before.

A: Probably not//

I: //No//

A: //Probably not, now people probably here have those soups from these Greek festivals that, whatever, Greek, Greek restaurants but I remember the soup.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And she was a wonderful cook, my grandmother.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And umm I remember the dinner. We were quiet, Ted and I, but I remember everything. The Germ//

I: Ted is your brother.

A: Yes, Ted, my brother. And umm people were taking German lessons, I, I find, you know, they thought Germany occupied us will be another 400 years like the Turks, you know. You never, you never think, the Greek umm mentality is, if they come in they'll be here forever so we might as well. People were intermarrying too. A lot of young girls, just like it happened in Japan, you know. Even though you feel it's the enemy for the first year or two then you see the morale and you go to the beach, the Germans were there swimming and, and it was almost except for the poverty and the food, they really didn't come to our schools and do anything. I was going to school uhh people were still playing cards and going out but the food was in short supply.

I: What happened with the food?

A: Ohh well they, they, there was no food to go and buy you had to, everything was on the black market, everything. My father was in the food business so he had a lot of suppliers and he would go during the night in villages and come home and bring us ten pounds of beans and ten pounds of rice or something like that, in bags. And uhh no refrigeration so a lot of the things we had, we had some bags of some kind of cereal {182} I don't know if you've ever of it and it got worms. And <laughing> and we would eat, you know! And my mother would come and take the little worms out from the top! And I would say, "Mom, I can't eat this!" And you had to, of course the worms would, fortunately they were not something that would kill us, but we had to eat it and I was always dreaming of chocolate bars because my father had so many, you know. He was a wholesaler so we had cookies and chocolate bars and wines and {189} <speaking in Greek> cuz I still love chocolate!

I: You couldn't get the chocolate at that time//

A: //No, not chocolate. So we used to make due with chestnuts, we would make cakes with chestnuts, you know, and use some kind of corn syrup. People really thought all the wonderful things that you see now in whole foods stores <laughing> that's what we did, you know. Black bread, no white bread, corn bread, I hated it, it was like and now, you know, people love those foods. And lentils, every other day it was lentils or garbanzo beans or something. So that's was and once or twice have we tried to get some meat and maybe on Sunday we would have a chicken, one of those chickens that we had. There were about ten of us, eleven because we all moved in so we could eat. My mother's sister, the other sister and let's see, four of us and four, eight, and we had, we had a young girl they brought from a vill-, from the village uhh for help. She was only about ten, eleven. Her parents were killed by Communist guerillas so.

I: Communist guerillas before the Germans came in?

A: No, after, after like in '41, '42. A lot of the, a lot of the young villagers including some of my cousins in Skopos. By '42, yeah, when did Papi die? <mumbling> {209} I must remember, I don't remember, I was young myself. But she was like a year or two older than I was, just a little girl too. But umm//

I: //So when did they//

A: //they killed her parents//

I: //when did the, the Communists come in, in the middle of the German occupation//

A: they, they used to come in, take food, oh, that's what they did, that's, that's a problem. They used to be in the mountains//

I: //They were Greek Communists?

A: Oh yes.

I: Oh.

A: Oh yes, my first cousins. And after, after they lost the, the war in '45-46, when we left they went to Bulgaria all, all the countries that fell into the uhh Eastern European, you know, behind the wall. So I have two first cousins from the villages who, of course one of my cousins now, who is from the right, he still calls them the Communists because they came back, they're alright, you know. But they were, they were young, poor, so that he came//

I: //Why were they killing Greeks?

A: Where were they killing Greeks//

I: //Why were they//

A: //Why, this was, Popi's father was a, a teacher and he, they, they used to come into the villages, did you ever read the book Eleni? You did, yeah, well that's, that's their story. If you went against them in any way or if you didn't capitulate in their uhh brainwashing they would have those sessions and uhh, you either follow them or you were, you were. And usually they would take uhh the priest or the teacher, those people. Course if you hear the other side it would be, you know, maybe it wasn't but that's, that's what happened.

I: And this was all going on during the German//

A: //during the German occupation//

I: //the Germans//

A: //and the guerillas, the guerillas in the mountains would first of all, in order to uhh, what's the word I want to use, to, umm when you try to make a village go your way.

I: Mmm, would would brainwashing//

A: //yeah not only brainwashing, yeah//

I: //to persuade//

A: //yeah, propaganda, to persuade. They would kill a German, high officer, they would know, you know, they were going to from one place to another and they would kill one or two Germans and then the Germans would come into the village and take 100 people and kill them. And that, that continued for, I guess a few years, you know. We would hear, you know, they killed a German officer and then you would hear what happened. They wanted it done so that you wouldn't do it// {246}

I: //The Greek Communists that//

A: //yes, in the mountains//

I: //that would kill//

A: //that would//

I: //a couple of Germans//

A: //usually a German, yes.

I: And then the Germans were the//

A: //<interrupting> Germans retaliate// {248}

I: //retaliate by killing//

A: //by killing 100 people so the next day those, those villages would be with the guerillas, you see? And that was the best way to do it. And that was happening throughout the war, yeah. And the Germans, of course in our house we used to say, “If they leave them alone maybe, you know, then that can end the war.” {253} The Communist, the guerillas they’re not, they were just instigating. So as, as it happened, you needed America and you know, big forces to win the war. You’re not going to win it by killing a German on the way to wherever they were going. You needed an invasion <laughing> like happened on D-Day or and you need forces that were, the Greeks would not win the war but they were, they were trying to {261} they succeeded, that’s why we left. They succeeded in occupying several towns and villages in the north and//

I: //Well what are you doing during that time?

A: During that time we were, it was, <sighing> it was terrible! I mean, they would, while they were occupying, you know, public buildings again, they occupied the radio I think. They took over northern villages umm, they were {270} it was almost a Communist takeover but then the Truman Doctrine came in and they helped the, the army and we had left already because my father was positive it was going to become just like Bulgaria, Albania and you can see what happened to those areas. Now we forget but you still see it, Macedonia, you know, remnants of what happened in those years are still going on now. I mean, I’m reading yesterday//

I: //interruption// {278}

A: //let’s not go into that//

I: //somebody else’s story// {279}

A: Yes but it is the, the remnants of that, of those days are still with us today so that’s why my father, being that he wasn’t American, uhh he had//

I: //That he was//

A: //Yes.

I: //Yes//

A: //decided I don’t think I’m going to like, you know, what’s happening and he took us and brought us here. And that’s how we came in 1946.

I: Uh huh.

A: And the war was raging, the civil war, after we left from '46, '47, '48, yeah.

I: And that was their civil war.

A: Civil war.

I: Yeah.

A: Yes. And Truman decided to help Greece and Turkey to stop Communism. And uhh they were successful, yeah.

I: So, let's go back a little bit again to the story about your father who was the first immigrant.

A: Yes.

I: And would you tell a little bit about that?//

A: //He came in 1910.

I: And his name is {295}//

A: //was uhh, in, in English?

I: Yes.

A: George Theodore, his father's first name, Mergemekes.

I: Could you spell that please.

A: M-E-R-G-E-M-E-K-E-S, in English. But when he came here, because it was too long, George Theodore Mergemekes, he dropped the Mergemekes and kept the Theodore, George Theodore. And that's how he was the first time he came in 1910 to 1920 and then the second time in '46-'56.

I: Now {306}//

A: //Now I kept the name Theodore also until I got married.

I: Oh yes, ok.

A: Yes.

I: So you were not married {307} so that was the//

A: //the family name, yes. <interruption> {307} That was the family name.

I: Did umm, you mentioned something earlier before we did the interview about your father's first arrival here that he was, he was quite young and//

A: //{311}

I: //a little bit//

A: //yes//

I: //could you just tell us//

A: //yes, they were young//

I: //a picture of that.

A: Actually, yes, they were very young, he and his brothers. I don't know if it was one or two brothers that he came with. I know one definitely, {315} was his name and umm//

I: //I think you said something about how old he was, he was//

A: //He was about, I would say about 15, 16, around there or so. Of course they already had gone to Romania to, to work so//

I: //Yeah.

A: 12, 13 years old village boys would go to places where they could get jobs and uhh Romania, Russia, Bulgaria, they were the, the countries uhh bordering on Greece. And they would go there and get jobs, construction anything. My father I think worked in a factory making bricks for buildings//

I: //In Romania?

A: In Romania. So I remember that//

I: //So he had that experience before he even went to the United States//

A: //he had that experience before he even came here but then they heard this is even better <laughing>. A lot of, a lot of uhh and it was during the Turkish occupation so they knew Greece was never going to, you know, that area there was village life but no industry, nothing. It was an occupat-, occupied area of Greece, Thrace. <interruption> Eastern Thrace, eastern Thrace, yes.

I: Uh huh. What was the uhh, uhh, how, how did your father manage to pay for his//

A: //for his fare?

I: Yeah.

A: Uhh he might have saved a little money working in uhh, I'm sure the same way your father came, I know your father came from uhh, from Constantinople. I think that where they boarded the uhh the ships, I don't know where my father came. It could have been from Romania even but they came. You know, it didn't, it probably did not cost, it was not a luxury voyage//

I: //cruise <laughing>

A: <laughing> Yeah, it was, I'm sure they were somewhere, you know, how they came with umm you see them coming through umm, umm, is it Castle Gardens or? Where is the area in New York, where you disembark? Wasn't it Castle Gardens?

I: There was at Ellis Island.

A: Ellis Island and it was called Castle Gardens somewhere? Remember that?

I: Yeah.

A: Yeah I think that's where my father came through Castle Gardens. And you see them, you know, the women with the uhh babushkas and the young children and the baggage and it's//

I: //and//

A: //so I'm sure that's how they came, young, young boys but very, you know, vigorous, healthy, ready to work. And they went to Chicago because they already had someone there, cousins uhh that umm maybe wrote to them and they said, "It's very nice here, there's a lot of work, come!" So that's how they came and it probably worked for someone else///

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A: Anyway, they came to Chicago, worked for someone else because they had stopped and then they opened up their own uhh, I think it was more of a confectionary store, what we would call today. And they're making ice cream, candies, and {003}. I remember a picture that was a long umm, umm bar or, you know, where you sit and eat ice cream sundaes and//

I: //had a soda fountain//

A: //a soda fountain with all of the but they made their own ice cream now I don't know if they sold bulk ice cream also to other places, I'm not sure. But they made candy, ice cream, but they also served there so. Being that it was wartime too they were successful and umm in 1920//

I: //what, what time are you talking about?

A: The First World War, in 1920 they decided they wanted to go back to Greece. It wasn't, well, they went back to Thrace and they wanted to have umm, I don't know, animals like, like a f-, like a big farm, the brothers. But in two years the Turks again chased them out. That was in 1922 where the whole Asia Minor and Smyrna and uhh what they call the {017} they, they, they asked all the Greeks to leave. And that's why my father and his brothers came to Serres//

I: //Mmhmm//

A: //Whatever they could take with 'em and fortunately they must have had some money in banks and things and they started building again in Serres.

I: So the second time, what was the story when he came back {022}//

A: //The second time, well that was as I told you uhh in 1946 he umm he didn't like what was happening, geo-politically, that whole area, it wasn't only Greece it was everything. Umm from Bulgaria to Romania every, every few months countries were falling behind the Iron Curtains so we were almost surrounded. So he decided he, he ran into someone from the American Embassy who knew him and he said, "You know, you could go to America if you have your papers." And he did and that's how we came.

I: And how did he acquire those papers again?//

A: //He became an American citizen, <interruption> when he//

I: //the first time he//

A: //yes//

I: //he became a citizen//

A: //yes, yes. And he loved this country, he loved it because it was free but he wanted to marry and have a family and he loved Greece too <laughing> . I always remember we had the biggest Greek flag and every time something either a holiday or something he would be the first one with the Greek flag.

I: Mmhmm. So <coughs> so that was how your father came to//

A: //for the second time// {035}

I: //the, the second time//

A: //the second time//

I: //which is when you came.

A: //Yes. And I was//

I: //with him//

A: //12.

I: And that was//

A: //and we came on a, American passport as a matter of fact. An American citizen can bring his children. My mother had to be naturalized umm five years later, it takes about five years. So//

I: //Mhmm.

A: She had a Greek passport and we came on an American passport and there were several of us on that ship and my, as my father umm a second time//

I: //your father's second time but your first time.

A: First time.

I: Yes. Umm what do you remember of your, of your arrival in the United States?

A: Huh <laughing> disappointment, that's the first word I have to say because of, we were thinking it's going to be the movies. Ted and I were so in love with American movies and the way they were presented. We thought we would move into penthouses with phony stairs, you know how you saw those umm Ginger Rogers and uhh Fred Astaire, that's what we thought, white {046} gowns. <laughing> Then we come and first of all nobody came to greet us//

I: //you arrived, where, where did you arrive?//

A: //uhh in uhh New York, 'bout somewhere 39, 40th Street, somewhere I think it wasn't, uhh it was not Ellis Island, no. We just came through, it was an American ship uhh, the *Marine Shark* and uhh. Again, it was not a cruise, it was, you know, it was, it was a war time ship and umm that was already disappointing. I think we would come in a liner or something and they put us at, at, at the military ship, a navy ship. So we came

and nobody came to greet us. My mother thought oh the aunts would come or even, yeah. Nobody came to greet us, it was, it was a disappointing time, Mary. <chuckling> And then of course, you know, housing here was terrible.

I: You had relatives here, err there, which was in New York City, right?

A: Yes. You're right <coughing> yes, my mother's three sisters: Ana and Chrysanthie and Lorenia. And your father who was my grandmother's brother, so those four. So my mother thought they would have these grand houses and we either would help us, we really didn't know what America was like. We thought it was going to be, well my mother did, she didn't wanna come. But, but as children we thought it was going to be the movies and then when we landed we had to live with uhh an aunt, Lorenia, for a while. That was a little house, it was very difficult, very difficult//

I: //Can you describe the house, just a, a picture of it//

A: //The house! <laughing> A picture of it! Oh I remember, it was a very tiny little house and we were four.

I: Do you remember where that house//

A: //Yes.

I: Where was that house?

A: 9, umm well it was in 19, well 1946 New York City. Uhh//

I: //the house//

A: 130th street Manhattan, adjacent to Amsterdam Avenue. Right?

I: I think it was Amsterdam.

A: Do you remember?

I: They moved from one place to another//

A: //Yes, in fact the little, the little house was on 130th then they went to 137th.

I: Mmhmm.

A: Because it had umm an elevator and the aunt, our aunt could not go up and down stairs. So they moved there but that was much later. I think I was already either engaged or married so. This is from 1946 to 1957-58, those years they lived in that house still and they ran the grocery store under it, do you remember that?

I: Yes. How long did you stay in that house with them, you think?

A: More than we were welcome, let's put it that way. It had become very difficult so umm but we could not find anything. <sighing> Then we went to stay in a hotel room which was owned by a Greek old friend of maybe our grandparents because they were from the same village, Nea Skop-, Skopa, Skopienida {084}. So the Rex Hotel, it was on 47th street and about a block from Broadway. So here we are in a hotel room, four of us. I think my father was getting some, some, some help from the welf-, the people that brought us here. They were responsible for us and he hated it because he, you know, to him to get help it was very demeaning. So he went to, he went, I don't know how he found a little place on 181st Street. Uhh a lady was widowed or something, Greek lady, and wanted to sell that little candy store she had. And he started again, he went and borrowed money from uhh Theo Andrea who was very nice, gave him a thousand dollars, Theo Aeneas' husband and uhh, Theo Andrea Dadaki {095} gave another thousand dollars and Nick Tepalides {096} gave five hundred dollars, two and a half thousand. And he bought the, the little candy store.

I: And what were you doing during that time?//

A: //Well I was 12, I was 12. I was dreaming of going back home, that's what I was doing. <whispering>

I: You really missed it?

A: Oh, it was terrible, terrible.

I: But you were also going, weren't you also going to school?

A: Oh yes, oh yes, going to school, learning the language, very ambitious. I was very ambitious, I was saying "I'm going to show everybody that I can learn the language and, and do well and go back home." That was my dream.

I: Uh huh. Umm.

A: Yeah. Well//

I: //Do you//

A: //we're living in one room at the time and then another hotel. We went to the Newton Hotel if you remember uhh since, perhaps your father was very friendly of, I, I shouldn't get personal, should I mention your father or?

I: Oh sure.

A: Oh, your father was very friendly with all the Skopiani {110} really, uhh, Andriadis {110}, do you remember the family?

I: Yes.

A: He was a lawyer, yes. They owned a hotel on 96th and {111} //

I: //his name is {111} //

A: //{112} two brothers, yes. {112} was the umm, and it was my uncle's name too, was the lawyer, right?

I: Yes.

A: With the little glasses, I remember him. And Andreas who was a very sweet man, they owned this hotel, the Newton Hotel on 96th Street. So they moved us from the Rex to the Newton Hotel and we stayed there, oh one room again and we stayed there at least a year or so. And then we finally got another room on 176th Street, no, yes 177th, maybe '78. In a brownstone, one room, sharing a bath with another tenant. So you can see the horrible time we were having.

I: Mmhmm.

A: <sighing>

I: How did you get your meals together when you were in a hotel room?

A: In a hotel room, ohh we had a kitchenette. In all the, in all the hotel rooms there was a little, but we would get also cold cuts. I remember eating cold cuts and, and then when my father got the store we had umm, my mother was, my mother was preparing little meals somehow {128} on, on umm, on Broadway there, which was a better location too it was nice there, 96th Street and Broadway. It was *really* nice in 1946.

I: How did you manage to go to school during the time you were moving from one hotel to the other?

A: Umm, I always went to one school because my father had gotten the store within one year and uhh the nearest school was on 182nd or 3rd, P.S. 31, I think, in, in umm Washington Heights.

I: Mmhmm.

A: So I went to that school, he took me to that school, he must have asked which is the closest school to his work and he, that's where he registered me.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And I went to only that public school no matter where we were living I only went to that because <interruption> his base was the store since we were moving from hotel room to hotel room. It was very, it was a good idea, of course not to take me to local schools uhh from hotel rooms because we were, we moved two, three times.

I: Yeah.

A: Yeah.

I: Do, can you describe anything about what kinds of a, a training for citizenship that you, you might have had during those years or what left an impression for you, on you for being an American citizen//

A: //being an American citizen//

I: //or just being American.

A: Well I was an American citizen as I said//

I: //Yeah, you were a citizen//

A: //yeah, I never had to//

I: //you just//

A: //I did have to apply for papers later on and sometime I don't remember and I have some citizenship papers rather than be on my father's old uhh passport were there three of us: Ted and I and uhh my father. WE're on a passport that finally expired at sometime six years later when I was 18 and I didn't and then I had to go get some papers, I remember that. And get my own citizenship umm papers and also, I always traveled of course on an American. When I brought in, I remember bringing, the first time I went to Greece was in 1952 so I was 18 or 17 plus <phone ringing>

I: I think I have to answer that one.

PAUSE IN TAPE {158}

I: Ok uhh <coughing> so we were talking about citizenship and being uhh, uhh, uhh introduced to a different way of life, a different culture <coughing> and I'm wondering whether that, any of that, made an impress-, what impression that made on you as to the lifestyle of the people here and the beliefs about being in this country and to know if that made an impression on you, that you remember?

A: Well, as I said, the if I had come as an adult and gotten a job or went to school or I get to see where I wanted to live it would be such a different impression than to come as a, as a 12-year-old, live in hotels, miserable circumstances, no housing from where I

came. I mean the difference if you come from a small little village where you have nothing umm you might find this, this country, you know, or the area that, where you lived, or the apartments or the houses and say how lovely it is but when we came it was the antithesis of what we had! We lived in, not to overstate but, <sighing> we lived in beautiful houses with, you know, maids, beautiful furniture and even the apartment we lived in Salonica it was like, it had four entrances, you know those old style European houses. Four entrances, the maid's entrance, the Salon entrance, <laughing> the bedroom entrance it was just lovely things with beautiful ceilings carved out and chandeliers. It was just lovely like those old French apartments, that's the style they had. It was built by a Russian Greek who lived upstairs and uhh there were quite a few Russian Greeks like Greek-Americans now that go back, very interesting. They, they were the ones that came to Salonica in Athens. Athens' public buildings were are built by the university, the museum, all built by Russian Greeks who came to Athens after it was liberated from the Turks or 1900's early and built all those beautiful buildings because the Greeks hardly had anything when the Turks left. So umm//

I: //So it was different//

A: //it was, it was//

I: //in contrast it was much less//

A: //to what I felt here//

I: //{192}//

A: //yes, for a child who left everything, I still have feelings that one day I will go back to find that house, the white washing, it's silly. <laughing> But a child.

I: What about the uhh, the society and how people lived and how they treated each other politically?//

A: //politically, yes, yes// <interruption> {198}

I: //here in this country, first as sort of what you left// <interruption>

A: //I thought the Greeks that I met here which is an amazing thing <sighing> most of them were village people that came and, and they thought Greece either they would say, they would say things to me that were almost umm, insulting, like, "God, you're from Greece, isn't that awful?" And here I thought <laughing> {203} I was saying I was going to <interruption> {203} the homes and they play this old Greek music and dance and I and here we were, I don't know if it was a farming thing or something but Salonica was a very and even Serres is a very cosmopolitan, you know, people spoke French and German and I would come here and some of the Greeks couldn't even speak two words of English <laughing> I couldn't believe it! So backwards. Of course their children and I mean I don't try to put down my, you know, my Greek heritage but their children you

could see where they're {212}. But I did like your mother and your father because well first of all your mother was from Alexandria, wasn't she? Yes, and she was educated so. I would even write little poems to her and have her read them, you know what I'm saying? "Aren't they nice," you know, she would say. Yes, they are, you know! I <sighing> they were really the two only educated people that I could speak to as far as Greek relatives! The aunts were nice but they were, yeah.

I: You might just mention the name of my mother and father since they play a part in this story.

A: Yes, umm, Kathy Nicolaou <laughing>, Kathy Nicholson, Kathy, we called her Thea Kathy. And uhh Theo Stavro, Uncle Steve Nicholson, yes.

I: Ok <clears throat> So politically then in terms of the larger society here//

A: //well we were, the thing is that when we first came we were so insulated, you know by just the family because we couldn't speak English the first year so we would see all the aunts and uncles and then immediately when I started, in about a year my English was getting much better and I started making friends. I would, they said, they're friends and I would see all their houses and I would see. But the Greek society that I remember was still most of the men had little grocery stores, little candy stores, little florist shops and the wives were most of them born in Greece so they were village people, most of them.

I: So it wasn't really quite an American//

A: //No, no. And then//

I: //thriving community//

A: Yes, yes//

I: //Yes, what about the ones, what about your contact with, in the school?

A: In the schools, yes. Then//

I: //<interrupting> {236}

A: I went to school, yes. Good, good, it was good, I made very good friends.

I: How were they different, do you think, from//

A: //How were they different//

I: //from the Greek community <laughing>

A: Well, the, in the beginning, you know, it's funny that I, my best friends were Jewish because we lived in, from, in Washington Heights and I made three or four very good Jewish girls who took me in maybe they had the experience also of their people going through wartime and uhh they thought a little refugee Greek girl, you know. They befriended me and I would go over their apartments and they had lovely {245} apartments up in Washington Heights, up in Fort Washington if you remember the {247} houses and they had nice houses. And I said, "Well this is better!" <laughing> You know, rather than the ones on 134, you know, where most of the Greeks lived in umm, near Amsterdam or, or <mumbling> {250}. So that was, that was better, I started being friendly with those girls and within a year or two I started making a lot of friends, which was nice.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And going to movies and we started being merry, you know, the ballet, the theatre, everything. Within two years life was beginning to change. But the housing was still terrible//

I: //mmhmm//

A: //I was embarrassed of where I lived, I remember that. For years I was embarrassed because we lived {258} 78, one room, led to 161st and Amsterdam, a little apartment and it was mostly minority, mmm, black and Puerto Rican. We were practically the only white people there <laughing> and that was another way. But at least we had two bedrooms whereas before we had one bedroom, no kitchen, nothing.

I: Mmhmm.

A: <sighing> Terrible, terrible//

I: //now we can switch to, I'd like to switch to your marriage//

A: //yes.

I: How did you meet and uhh what was the, your courting story//

A: //yes, yes//

I: //and what was the back//

A: //yes//

I: //what was the background of your husband in comparison to you//

A: //yes, to my, we met uhh, we met at a, at a, a City College, Jim went to City College on 23rd Street, Business Coll-, uhh Baruch. It was called Baruch and I went to Hunter and umm I think City College had one of those umm, uhh sorority, fraternity things and uhh there was a Greek uhh sorority, Artemis. It was called Artemis and there was umm, their fraternity was called something, the Greek fraternity in this uhh school. And we invited the-, they invited us I think for, for social, for dance and that's where I think I met Jim. I saw him sitting, he wasn't dancing and umm, it's a funny story because he umm, he kinda liked me I think when he saw me dancing with someone else, I was dancing, and he asked a cousin of his who was a classman of mine to take my number. And he did but I was dancing with someone else Jim that night and when he called me a week or two later I thought it was the other Jim because I had given my number to the other Jim! And then when he came to pick me up I remember I opened the door and I said, "Jim," and I thought it was the young man I was dancing with who was also a City College student. <laughing> And it wasn't the one I was dancing with, I had never danced or met my husband now <laughing> so I didn't know that he asked Tina, my classmate, for my number. So it was a very funny story, I went out with someone I had never met nor expected to go out but we did and I didn't think anything was gonna happen. He was 19 and I was 19. A Greek young boy at 19, you know, I didn't think it was gonna happen so, you know, that we would have a lasting relationship. But after that my father died and we went to live in Greece, we lived a year there so, they wanted to marry me off in Greece, they made several uhh {307} <sighing> I didn't really care for, a very nice young man maybe, you know, it would have been very nice but it just didn't happen so I came back. Meanwhile Jim was, you know, writing and, and I did come back and marry Jim and we got engaged almost immediately, 1957. And then 1958 we got married.

I: Mmhmm. How, how was your background and his different?

A: Different

I: Or the same maybe//

A: Very different. Well no it was different, it still is different, I think. In many ways it still is different. He has umm, he had a more Greek-American feeling than I do, you know, being brought up in church very, his mother was very religious. A very umm, their whole social life was very church-oriented//

I: //in his day//

A: {324}

I: //his, his background though, he was, where was he born?

A: He was born in Brooklyn, here. So he was, yes.

I: He's American.

A: But being that uhh they came here when umm, when Greeks really had a social life around the church, they still do, many people that we, we see sometimes in church, everything they do, the children, everything is very church-oriented.

I: Mmhmm.

A: So that's the way he was brought up whereas {332} we went to church, we went to church but it wasn't that we socialized with church in Greece, ever. You went to church then you went home, that was that. You didn't stay over for coffee, Agia Sophia did not serve coffee, you know. <laughing>

I: <laughing> Mmhmm.

A: We just didn't have the same umm, the same upbringing as young, as young people as they do here. Your parents//

I: //<interrupting>

A: //were very involved with church also. Your parents, oh your father was, I don't, I don't know if you remember that. He was, he became president, he became something, I don't know, I can't, he was very involved.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And he had a very good {345} and they were really involved in the umm, hmm, council, you know, church council and all that. Yeah <interruption> we, we never became that.

I: Do, what, what, how have you handled your, your differences in the marriage//

A: //in the marriage//

I: //{351} background, differences.

A: Well the first time I remember that I told him I was born in Greece he didn't even realize it when we went the second date {353}. I remember him turning around, he said, "You're a Greek woman! So what's a Greek woman, I, I had no idea, you know, people that were born, I don't know, in foreign countries." So he had that idea that people, you know, that came from Greece were really less than it was, it's, in a way it still is this way, do, do you think so?

I: Mmm. We can talk about that later, right? <clears throat> So umm let's see, let's go onto uhh your, your school experience, you did say what you were doing when you were, when you were younger and then when you, when you were in college. Is there anything else you wanna say about your going to school here?

A: Going to school here.

I: {371}

A: I//

I: //I know I asked you previously what you studied and what//

A: //yes//

I: //you decided to do.

A: I studied, yes, I studied biology with a minor in education.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And umm, I enjoyed my school years very much, I must say that.

END OF SIDE B {376}

TAPE 2 SIDE A {000}

I: Of the tape umm of the Oral History on Artemis Lewnes, L-E-W-N-E-S uhh on June 14 uhh 2001 and the interview is by Mary Nicholson Goldworth who on, or Greek American Oral History Archive Project at the Modern Greek Studies Center and the or tape take place at the, my home address, 4008 Laguna Way, Palo Alto and this is the second number, number tape to continuation of one that came before. We were talking about your education and uhh the, what you had studied and uhh I wondered uhh what kind of work you chose to do after you graduated from school.

A: Yes that was in 1955 I graduated and I got a job at Columbia University. Uhh physi-, College of Physicians and Surgeons and we did research on several things. I worked in a lab as a research technician and umm we worked on diseases, we worked on {012}, we did certain research projects. I worked there for a year and when my father died we decided, he died in 1956, it really gave me just a year working at Columbia. And we left in '56, he died, my mother wanted to go back home to be with her family, we were, she was despondent cuz it happened so suddenly and//

I: //How did he fight, how did he die?

A: Yeah, heart attack.

I: Oh yeah.

A: Suddenly, very suddenly.

I: Ok, so then you were still, you were working//

A: //I was working, my mother had a really bad breakdown. So we went to see someone at Columbia, at Presbyterian, Columbia, you know 168.

I: Doctor//

A: //I do remember, yes. And he said, "You know, I think your mother needs to get away from her surroundings," so we decided to go to Greece and we did, the two of us, Ted was working, going to school. So we went to Greece, the two of us. We stayed about a year and umm//

I: //to Thessaloniki.

A: Yes, we stayed with my aunt and uncle.

I: Who were?

A: Uhh, Eleni Charalambi, my mother's sister had married and lived in Salonica and we stayed with her and < mumbling > {027} Christopoulo was living there too, Christopher, whom you know, you met. And we stayed there about a year, not knowing if as I said they were trying to introduce me to one or two young men meanwhile I had Jim writing and {030}//

I: <interrupting> {030}

A: //and that was as Christopoulo stood at the door one day he said, "If you go back, you might regret it, if you stay here, you'll regret it." <laughing>

I: <laughing>

A: So I have, I have no regrets, really. People do say, "Ohh, if I had stayed in Greece," it's always in my heart.

I: So uhh then you were stopped working for that time.

A: For a year, yes. And then when I came back, as I was getting almost engaged to Jim but the first week I came back in 1957 I went to look for work, obviously I was going to get a job and I went to Rockefeller University. It was called the Rockefeller Institute at the time, they had not become a university. It was a very specialized research center. It was a wonderful place to work with wonderful people and umm I got a job immediately. I started working and got engaged too so life, you know, but I only worked there a few years, two, three, four, '57, '58, '59, '60. Ohh four until Anne was born and then I went back for a few months to train the person that was going to replace me and it was a

wonderful time and it was a wonderful area where, where that was. It was beautiful research buildings and a lot of money Rockefeller put into research//

I: //Where, where was that?

A: It was on 66th and 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue. It was a, a new area being built and it has become a beautiful university and beautiful, even at the time we had about ten Nobel Laureates working there. It was really a very {051} institution. We had a few students who would come to the lab and work and they were very few but then more, more. Now it's called a university, Rockefeller University. I still hear sometimes, you know, somebody getting a Nobel or something, you know, I'm proud of it. It was a wonderful, wonderful place.

I: Mmhmm.

A: With wonderful turns. But then, you know//

I: //So then what happened//

A: //I left, I did leave. I had the baby, it was a time for me, I wanted to stay home with the baby, I, that's what I did.

I: Mmhmm. Where did you live then?

A: We lived on a, first on 158th and {056} Drive, very nice apartment. But then we needed two bedrooms so we moved to Riverdale.

I: Mmhmm.

A: On 247th, '49th Street, two buildings.

I: Mmhmm. Umm let's go to another uhh question then. How, what, just what is your language background, what languages do you speak?

A: Well, Greek and umm English and a little French that I can understand. It was, I took French for about three, four years but//

I: //Mmhmm.

A: I can't say I, I speak it. I can read it.

I: Mmhmm.

A: But I haven't used it so.

I: Ok, umm, now I, I, just a sort of a quickie question here. Uhh what do you think it is important about the ancient heritage of Greece, how does it, how does that enter your//

A: //Oh very//

I: //way of thinking//

A: //Oh very, oh very. We, we were taught to, well, I mean, everything, everything in our life in Greece when we were young was how great our civilization was, you know, everything. And umm well we were also taught, you know, I took about a year or two of ancient Greek so I could read and write ancient Greek. We were, our sixth year in school we had, we had to start ancient Greek. I don't, I don't even know if they do it now but we did.

I: Mmhmm.

A: Very strict, very, it's amazing the schooling that we had in Greece compared to what I see here now.

I: Mmhmm.

A: <sound> {076} Anyway, I'm not going to go into that but very, very uhh, uhh strict and umm academically very, very strong.

I: Uh huh. <mumbling> {078}//

A: //<interrupting> the last two, everything even in public school we would do math like college students do here, very str-, I don't know.

I: Mmhmm. But the ancient heritage is there//

A: //very, very//

I: //is that a part of your//

A: //very//

I: //to what extent is it a part of your way of thinking, yeah.

A: Ahhh.

I: Of your//

A: //Oh so//

I: //of your awareness, I guess//

A: //So important to me, everything about ancient Greece is so important to me//

I: //Do you feel like giving an example?//

A: //<unintelligible> documentaries, I visit museum. Umm a couple of years ago there was the uhh, was it the Pergamon that came here, the umm, to the umm, to the museum in uhh the park. The De Young is it? See, I always mix the two, no, the umm, the Legion of uhh, I can't find//

I: Legion of Honor.

A: Legion of Honor. And they had the Pergamon marbles and statues. I don't know if you, you didn't go. Umm and I went there and it was, it was so lovely and it was from the area where my, my parents come from, Thrace.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And I found out that their goddess was Artemis. <laughing> When I saw that I said, "No wonder," because it was a Thracian goddess, you know, and I read all that. Well I'm very, very proud and well, I'm not a scholar, I can't say I'm a scholar but I do follow anything that uhh, you know, if there's anything on, on television or a book or anything I would, I'm very interested in it.

I: Have you ever felt uhh that you were discriminated against because of your Greek her, her, heritage?

A: No. And also never because I'm a woman, you know. Never. I never felt that from the minute I came here I would go for a job, I would get it, you know, I didn't ask to be a neurosurgeon but whatever job I wanted to or whatever I wanted to do I felt the world was my oyster from the beginning, which is interesting. You know people say, "Ohh I can't get," and, and Anne feels the same way, my daughter.

I: Mmhmm.

A: Yes. We feel we're very umm matriarchal. My mother felt strong, my aunts felt, we never felt as though men were against us or they were repressing us or no.

I: Mmhmm. Umm do you feel your Greek heritage distinguished you in some way in your social interaction with people of other backgrounds?

A: <whispering> Other backgrounds. Yes, we were a very tolerant people I think when I was growing up, we were. We, yes, we didn't like uhh dislike umm other people when I was growing up. When I came here, that's when I started seeing, you know, white people don't like black people, Christians don't like Jews, and all that became more and more and more, and it still goes on I think.

I: Mmm.

A: But in Salonica growing up I really didn't have any prejudices. And we had, we had a lot of Jewish people because Salonica was like one-third Jewish. And a lot of Armenians who came from Turkish areas, we were all refugees in a way in Salonica. At Serres we had the same thing and we had Slavs there too from Bulgaria and Macedonia.

I: Mmhmm.

A: So I grew up in a very, very open society, very open.

I: Hmm, very interesting//

A: //And I like the fact and when I came here I had no prejudices. That's the way I felt.

I: Mmhmm. Umm well, you had such an intensive, rich, uhh background, Greek background. What values would you take from that that you would like to pass on so that they did pass on//

A: Pass on? Yes, oh//

I: //to your daughter//

A: //<mumbling> family// {125}

I: //yes.

A: Umm, honesty. Never lied, we never lied in our house. My father never lied, just honor, dignity, family, just things that I see not happening here now.

I: Hmm.

A: I see things, you know, people lie, cheat, I don't know. I just see a breakdown of let's see, how could this person do that a lie about it? I can't understand it.

I: <mumbling> {132}

A: We were very//

I: //<unintelligible>// {132}

A: //very, very Greek. Uhh when I was growing up your name was the most important thing. You can't dishonor your name, my father's name used to say {135}.

I: Mmm. Now to switch over to the uhh American part of your experience what would you say, think uhh you would want to pass on to the American heritage?

A: Mmhmm.

I: What you know about it?

A: Yes, freedom, I think freedom is wonderful. You uhh I don't think people appreciate what a nice thing it is to, to, to be able to do anything you want here in this country.

I: Mmhmm.

A: Well I'm sure it's the same now in democracies in many parts of the world.

I: Mmhmm.

A: But I know that my father, that was, that had impressed him most about America that a little village boy could become wealthy and built a big house, you know, without inheritance is, you know, in Greece it was always how much money is my father gonna leave me in, who am I gonna marry and it's very, still almost the same. But here you came and you, you, you had freedom to invent, to work, to do anything.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And I think a lot of it I'm seeing, you know, not the way it used to be. I'm seeing a lot of people dependent and I don't want to go into a political//

I: //no//

A: //thing with you know, but people are dependent. They wake up. When our parents came here nobody was really saying, you know, "Well if you can't do, go to school you can always go on welfare or something." No, you had to, even, even when I came here I knew that I had to do well. Learn the language, go to work. I had a job when I was 15 and you know, working at Miles Shoes on 181st Street <laughing> that was my first job.

I: Mmhmm.

A: But I don't see it that way anymore. I think people are becoming too dependent on the government and what it can do for you.

I: Mmm.

A: Yes I do, I, I, I do believe that, you know, people should not depend so much. When you're young you should go to school, do well, get work, and not so umm depend

on, you know, someone else. You should become independent, I, I feel very strongly about that.

I: Mmhmm.

A: And I think that's the thing that my father taught us. He never, I told you, when, when, for a few months when he was getting a, kind of a if not a welfare just to see us through since we came, you know, as American citizen, he was the most miserable man in the world. Getting that check he felt he had to go and do something. And that's uhh, that's the way I feel also. That honor, dignity, work, family all those things I think I were Greek to me. And, and American too.

I: Mmhmm.

A: So.

I: Ok one other question then, what is the nature of your affiliation, your religion, and what part has it played in your life?

A: Well I'm Greek Orthodox uhh and it has played even though I'm not umm you know, a churchgoer like every Sunday and uhh it has played, I cannot do wrong. I know right and wrong and I feel that religion helps in building character, in saying, "That's wrong, I can't do that, I can't hurt someone, I can't lie, I can't steal." All those things I think we, we get from our family but religion helps. I feel that way. I don't want religion to overpower me, to say, "That's a sin, you know, everything is a sin, you know." Some religions I think uhh I see like what happens in Saudi Arabia or Iran or the Taliban or killing people for adultery or something or something, whatever. I, I can't believe that that's a helpful religion. But I think religion in my life has been helpful because I, I keep it in perspective, you know. It helps me say to my daughter how to bring her up to say even though she's made <laughing> I'm sure plenty mistakes like all of us but at the end I see her uhh right and wrong, she doesn't lie, she doesn't hurt uhh she's not corrupt, all those things.

I: Mmhmm. Ok. Well I would like this to be the ending of the interview except that you might have something to say uhh to, to wrap up or kind of summarize what you're, the story of your life {197}.

A: Hmm, now that's a difficult question.

I: Yeah.

A: That is a difficult question. The story of my life//

I: //A reflection, just a reflection//

A: //yes, a reflection, yes. It's just that I, I get a little sentimental thinking, I, I must say I think I'm on the whole proud of my, of my life.

I: How do you feel to do this, to do this history, oral history for you? How did it feel to tell your life history//

A: //oh, yeah, as I said I get emotional because it brings back, you know, the days of, of being an immigrant in a way and having to learn the language and I think of it sometimes and I think how wonderful I was <laughing>. I really do, I can't believe it! You say, "How did you do that?"

I: That's a nice moment//

A: //Yes, yes//

I: //to stop and yeah//

A: //yes!

I: Yes, it is.

END OF SIDE A, TAPE 2 {213}

END OF INTERVIEW